



Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela
en la República Federal de Nigeria

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Abuja, May 9th, 2022

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Your Excellency,
President of the Community Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Honourable Justice Edward Amoako Asante,
And the Honourable Members of the Community Court of Justice:
Honourable Vice-President Justice Gberi-bè Ouattara,
Honourable Justice Dupe Atoki
Honourable Justice Keikura Bangura
Honourable Justice Januária Tavares Silva Moreira Costa

Mr. President and Honourable Judges of the ECOWAS Court of Justice:

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela sends its greetings on the occasion of the ECOWAS International Conference on the theme: "ECOWAS Integration Model: The Legal Implications of Regionalism, Sovereignty and Supranationalism", which is being held in the sister Republic of Cape Verde from May 9th to 12th.

This Conference is a very important event, as it provides an opportunity for jurists, lawyers and academics to learn about the role of the Court in ECOWAS legal matters. This is especially so when it comes to the just recognition given to the Court for its work in the advancement and consolidation of Human Rights in West Africa.

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that the decisions adopted by the Executive Power of Cape Verde, the host country of the Conference, in the case of the Special Envoy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Deputy Ambassador to the African Union, His Excellency Alex Saab, do not show its commitment to the Honourable ECOWAS Court of Justice. Regrettably, the said government then repeatedly disobeyed the binding rulings of that supreme regional court with respect to the said case. In particular, the actions between June 2020 and October 2021, were regrettable and politically motivated, contrary to International Law, the decisions of that Court and the provisions of its National Constitution.

It is our obligation to denounce that the actions of Cape Verde in illegally detaining a diplomat with clear and unequivocal immunity and inviolability, and then illegally handing him over to U.S. officials for his abduction to U.S. territory, establishes a dangerous precedent, for which reason Venezuela calls for the condemnation of such actions.

Sincerely yours

David Velásquez

Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, accredited to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and ECOWAS

